Adm. Turner Called Leading Candidate For CIA Nomination

NEW YORK, Feb. 5 (AP)—Adm. Stansfield Turner, commander of NATO's forces in southern Europe, is President Carter's leading candidate for nomination as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Time magazine said today.

Turner, 53, was a classmate of Carter's at the Naval Academy, where he graduated first in his class. Carter was No. 59 in the class of 1946.

White House sources said that three or four names were being considered but Turner was "the serious front-runner," Time said.

I Time added that Carter appears to be making a careful, middle-of-the road choice after the withdrawal last month of Theodore C. Sorensen as a candidate.

Turner earned a master's degree in Foreign affairs as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford. In 1971, he went to the Pentagon as the Navy's director of systems analysis. He also spent three years as president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.